

WARDEN MESSAGE
06 FEBRUARY 2006

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As you may know, the controversy over cartoons considered insulting to the Prophet Muhammad that were published in a Danish newspaper have touched off violent reactions in some countries in the Islamic world. In Algiers a sit-in has been called for in the Premier Mai square today and there are reports of a violent demonstration in El Harrach neighborhood near the airport highway. The Algerian police are containing the demonstration at this time. There are further reports that a larger demonstration may be organized this Friday.

The Embassy advises all American citizens in Algeria to practice prudent security measures, including remaining alert and avoiding crowds and recommends that Americans inform the consular section immediately of any incidents or suspicious activity. Given the reports of demonstrations today and this Friday, the Embassy further recommends that American citizens in Algiers avoid unnecessary moves within the city today and Friday. In particular the Embassy advises American citizens to avoid Place Premier Mai and El Harrach. While there is no indication that these demonstrations are directed at the United States, there is an increased likelihood that an American could be injured if they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The Embassy will remain open this week, but we are restricting unnecessary movements in the city for Embassy personnel. The Embassy will update this message through the warden network as more information becomes available.

The Embassy is located at 4 Chemin Cheikh Bachir El-Ibrahimi, B.P. 408 (Alger-Gare) 16000, in the capital city of Algiers. The Embassy can be reached at telephone [213] (21) 691-425/255/186; fax [213] (21) 69-39-79.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Middle East/North Africa Public Announcement and the Algeria Travel Warning can be found. Up to date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-317-472-2328. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).